# **Economic Overview And Outlook: California**

#### Jobs

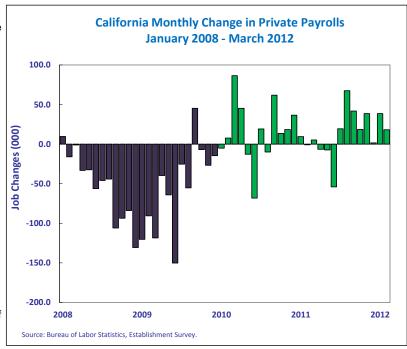
- Including March, the private sector has gained jobs nationwide for 25 consecutive months.
- In California, private sector employment fell by 9.8 percent from January 2008 to February 2010. Since February 2010, private sector employment has grown by 3.9 percent.
- In California, employees in the construction, manufacturing, and financial activities sectors faced the largest job losses (as a percent of employment within an industry) over the recession. Since the beginning of 2010, the following sectors in California have experienced the greatest employment increases: mining; professional and business services; and education and health services.\*
- As the economy continues its emergence from the Great Recession, service-providing industries are projected to add the most jobs between 2010 and 2020. The largest gains over this period are expected to occur in the healthcare and social assistance, professional and business services, and retail trade sectors. Job gains in the goods-producing sector of the economy will be led by the construction and mining industries while the number of manufacturing jobs is expected to fall.

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

- The unemployment rate in California was 11.0 percent in March 2012, 5.2 percentage points from December 2007, but down from its most recent peak of 12.4 percent in October 2010.
- 2,031,000 California residents were counted among the unemployed in California during March 2012.
- In California, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 250,372 during March, down 3.4 percent from the previous month. Since peaking at 344,438 in January 2010, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits in California have declined by 27.3 percent.

### **EARNINGS**

Between the start of the recession in the 4th quarter of 2007 and the 3rd quarter of 2009, inflation-adjusted total personal income in the United States declined 4.6 percent. Most recently, in the 4th quarter of 2011, total personal income is 0.9 percent above its 4th quarter of 2007 level.



Real per capita personal income (in 2005 \$) in California was \$39,055.80 in the 4th quarter of 2011, up from \$37,228.40 in the 4th quarter of 2009.

### Housing

- After peaking in the first quarter of 2007, national home prices declined by 16.6 percent over 17 quarters. Between the second quarter of 2011 and the fourth quarter of 2011, the most recent quarter, national home prices rose by 1.4 percent.
- In California, home prices fell by 37.3 percent over 19 quarters from their peak in the third quarter of 2006. Since the second quarter of 2011, home prices in California have risen by 0.3 percent.
- As of the 4th quarter of 2011, 3.5 percent of all mortgages, including 11.0 percent of subprime mortgages, were in foreclosure in California.
- Housing starts in California totaled 38,680 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in February 2012, an increase of 10.8 percent from January.
- Within the West census region, which includes California, sales of new single-family homes totaled 81,000 units in February 2012, an increase of 8.0 percent from January. Sales of existing single-family homes decreased 7.4 percent to 1,000,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from February to March 2012.

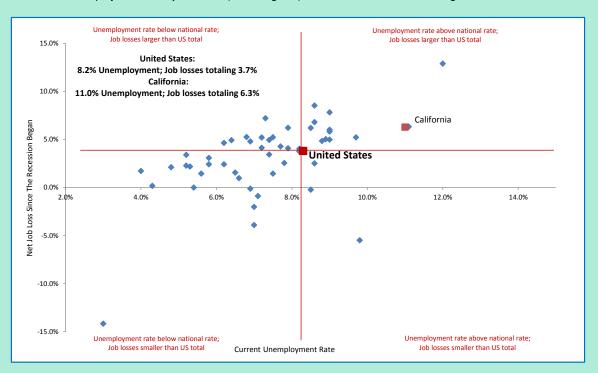
<sup>\*</sup> For California-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the California office: http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/

## How Does California Compare To Other States?

Workers across the country were hard hit during the Great Recession. Although labor markets in many states have started recovering, employment in most states still remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows you to compare California to other states using two metrics.

The current unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor market conditions faced by residents, while the proportion of jobs lost within California since the start of the recession (shown along the vertical axis) measures the toll the recession took on the job supply in California.

States falling in the upper right quadrant have lost a disproportionate share of jobs, relative to the total United States, and have unemployment rates higher than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower left quadrant have unemployment rates job losses (or even gains) lower than the national average.



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		California	United States
Unemployment Rates	. March 2009	10.5%	8.7%
	March 2010	12.4%	9.8%
	March 2011	11.9%	8.9%
	March 2012	11.0%	8.2%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	. 2011	6.9%	9.4%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2011	11.0%	8.3%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2011	20.0%	12.1%
Median Household Income	. 2007	\$ 58,608	\$ 52,823
(2010 \$)	2010	\$ 54,459	\$ 49,445
Poverty Rate	2007	12.7%	12.5%
	2010	16.3%	15.1%
No Health Insurance	. 2007	18.2%	15.3%
	2010	19.4%	16.3%